

Lie Detector Is Victim of Human Wrath

By Lon Tuck

Washington Post Staff Writer

Norman E. Therber, a 28-year-old resident of Indianapolis, told police yesterday that a show of force seemed the only way to cope with a "machine" that did him in.

Therber told officers that he lost a chance last September at a job in Washington because he flunked a lie detector test administered by a Fairfax County private investigation firm.

Since then, police quoted him as saying, resentment had been building up against the machine that he says was telling lies about him. And Thursday night Therber said he made up his mind to get revenge against the Commonwealth Agency, housed in a Seven Corners office building.

A worker in a travel agency next door heard a shattering noise at about 10 p.m. It was a glass door being kicked in. Wielding a hammer found in the agency's office, the intruder started laying waste to the place.

Desks were turned over, keys torn from typewriters, and mirrors cracked. But the main target was that portable lie detector. It was destroyed and paper from it was strewn through the fourth-room office.

Police Lt. Hilary W. Jenkins said that by the time he arrived, "it was a mess—everything he could get to with that hammer was wrecked." Therber was arrested as he was leaving the office, where damage was estimated at \$3500.

Proclaiming that the machine was telling lies, Therber was taken off by police, who charged him with breaking and entering and jailed him in lieu of \$1000 bond. A preliminary hearing is set for Dec. 16.